

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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PARIS FOR UNESCO US REP AMBASSADOR TORRES FROM AMBASSADOR

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SUBJECT: MASTER PLAN FOR KATHMANDU VALLEY

REF: A) KATHMANDU 3267, B) KATHMANDU 3268, C) PARIS 20472

1. AS FOLLOW-UP TO DIRECTOR-GENERAL UNESCO M'BOW'S VISIT TO KATHMANDU (REFS A AND B) I CALLED JUNE 28 ON EDUCATION MINISTER PASHUPATI RANA TO COMPARE NOTES ON MASTER PLAN AND TO LEAVE WITH HIM TWO REPORTS PREPARED BY SMITHSONIAN ASSISTANT SECRETARY PAUL PERROT ON HIS MARCH VISIT TO KATHMANDU. RANA EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR PERROT'S REPORTS AND SAID THEY WOULD BE HELPFUL IN DELIBERATIONS CURRENTLY UNDERWAY IN EDUCATION MINISTRY REGARDING MASTER PLAN AND ITS IMPLEMENTATION.

2. RANA THEN ASKED WHAT ASSISTANCE GON MIGHT REASONABLY EXPECT FROM US IN SUPPORT OF MASTER PLAN. I REMINDED HIM PRIVATE US FOUNDATIONS AND SIMILAR GROUPS HAD FOR SOME TIME EXPRESSED
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INTEREST IN MASTER PLAN AND IN PROTECTION OF MANY CULTURAL AND OTHER TREASURES IN KATHMANDU VALLEY. FOR EXAMPLE, JDR III FUND HAD CONTRIBUTED TO PREPARATION OF MASTER PLAN AND TO HANUMAN DHOKA RESTORATION WORK, AND INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR MONUMENTS, INC. WAS CURRENTLY CONSIDERING ANOTHER RESTORATION PROJECT. RECENT VISIT OF BROWN MORTON, CHAIRMAN, US/ICOMOS, DEPARTMENT OF

INTERIOR, AND PAUL PERROT WAS ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF SUCH INTEREST. FURTHER, AS NOTED IN PERROT'S REPORT, MEANINGFUL PROGRAM FOR TRAINING OF NEPALESE SPECIALISTS IN MUSEUM AND RELATED WORK MIGHT BE ORGANIZED THROUGH FOUNDATIONS AND SMITHSONIAN.

3. AS FAR AS USG WAS CONCERNED, I WAS NOT AWARE THAT WE HAD DEVELOPED OFFICIAL POSITION ON MASTER PLAN. HOWEVER, AS M'BOW HAD TOLD BOTH OF US, HE PLANNED TO RAISE MASTER PLAN AND US FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR IT DURING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO US. SOMETHING MIGHT EMERGE OUT OF THESE DISCUSSIONS. I ASSURED RANA THAT I WOULD BE BACK IN TOUCH WITH HIM IF ANYTHING TANGIBLE ON SUBJECT OF MASTER PLAN DEVELOPED DURING M'BOW'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

4. I WENT ON TO NOTE THAT I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT AT PRESS CONFERENCE AT CONCLUSION OF M'BOW'S VISIT (REF A) RANA HAD TAKEN OPPORTUNITY TO PUBLICIZE STEPS GON WAS TAKING TO START WORK ON MASTER PLAN WITHOUT WAITING FOR FOREIGN DONORS. RANA SAID HE FELT IT IMPORTANT TO GET MESSAGE ACROSS TO FOREIGN COMMUNITY THAT GON ALSO CARED ABOUT ITS CULTURAL HERITAGE AND WAS PREPARED TO DIVERT SOME OF ITS LIMITED RESOURCES TO THESE PURPOSES. HOWEVER, MUCH MORE NEEDED TO BE DONE THAN GON COULD AFFORD; LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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HENCE THE IMPORTANCE OF MOBILIZING FOREIGN OPINION AND SUPPORT.

5. IN THIS CONNECTION, RANA SAID THAT AT OCTOBER UNESCO CONFERENCE IN PARIS NEPALESE DELEGATION WOULD RAISE ONLY TWO ITEMS: A) MASTER PLAN AND B) NEW DIRECTIONS IN NEPAL'S EDUCATIONAL POLICY. FURTHER, HE WAS TOYING WITH IDEA OF FILM ON KATHMANDU VALLEY MONUMENTS OR SERIES OF ARTICLES OR NEWSPAPER REPORTS BY PROMINENT WESTERN NEWSPAPER OR PUBLISHING ORGANIZATION. HE RECALLED THAT AT VARIOUS TIMES, GERMAN, FRENCH, OR BRITISH PAPERS HAD "ADOPTED" AN ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG OR RESTORATION PROJECT AND HAD MOUNTED CAMPAIGN FOR FUNDS. PERHAPS SOMETHING OF THIS NATURE MIGHT BE USEFUL FOR KATHMANDU VALLEY. NEPAL LACKED EXPERTISE OR RESOURCES TO UNDERTAKE THIS TYPE OF PROJECT BUT RANA SAID HE WOULD WELCOME SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO PROCEED IN ARRANGING PRESS COVERAGE OR FILM TEAM TO DO THE JOB. HE ASSURED ME ANY GROUP THAT CAME OUT WOULD RECEIVE FULL SUPPORT AND COOPERATION FROM GON. I SAID I WOULD PASS ON HIS

SUGGESTION WHICH WAS RELEVANT TO M'BOW'S ALREADY
DECLARED INTEREST IN PUBLICIZING MASTER PLAN.

6. AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, FRENCH, GERMAN, AND JAPANESE
GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS UNESCO AND UNDP HAVE ALREADY
CONTRIBUTED TO MASTER PLAN. WE HOPE M'BOW'S VISIT
TO WASHINGTON WILL HELP CRYSTALLIZE US VIEWS
ON MASTER PLAN AND LEAD TO PLEDGE OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.
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